

Wednesday, June 6, 2007

House Meets At...	Votes Predicted At...
10:00 a.m. For Legislative Business Fifteen "One-minutes" Per Side	Last Vote: 7:00 p.m.

Any anticipated Member absences for votes this week should be reported to the Office of the Majority Whip at 226-3210.

Floor Schedule and Procedure

- **Suspension Bills:** Today, the House will consider several bills on the Suspension calendar. Bills considered on the Suspension calendar are debatable for 40 minutes; may not be amended; and require a two-thirds vote for passage. If a recorded vote is requested, it will be postponed
 1. **H.R. 1051** - National STEM Scholarship Database Act (*Rep. Holt – Education and Labor*)
 2. **H.R. 2559** - Higher Education Act Extension Act of 2007 (*Rep. George Miller - Education and Labor*)
 3. **H.Res. 421** - Honoring the trailblazing accomplishments of the "Mercury 13" women, whose efforts in the early 1960s demonstrated the capabilities of American women to undertake the human exploration of space (*Rep. Kagen – Science and Technology*)
 4. **H.Res. 446** - Honoring the life and accomplishments of Astronaut Walter Marty Schirra and expressing condolences on his passing (*Rep. Bilbray – Science and Technology*)
 5. **H.R. 1467** – 10,000 Trained by 2010 Act (*Rep. Wu – Science and Technology*)
 6. **H.R. 1716** - Green Energy Education Act of 2007 (*Rep. McCaul – Science and Technology*)
 7. **H.R. 632** - H-Prize Act of 2007 (*Rep. Lipinski – Science and Technology*)
 8. **H.R. 964** - Securely Protect Yourself Against Cyber Trespass Act (*Rep. Towns – Energy and Commerce*)
 9. **H.R. 2560** - Human Cloning Prohibition Act of 2007 (*Reps. DeGette, Murphy (CT), Langevin – Energy and Commerce*)

- **H. Res. 453-Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 2446-Afghanistan Freedom and Security Support Act of 2007 (Rep. McGovern–Rules):** The structured rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs. No amendments shall be in order except those amendments printed in the Rules Committee report accompanying the resolution. Provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. Debate on the rule will be managed by Rep. McGovern and consideration will proceed in the following order:
 - One hour of debate on the rule.
 - Possible vote on a Democratic motion to move the previous question. **Democrats are urged to vote yes on the motion.**
 - Vote on adoption of the rule. **Democrats are urged to vote yes on adoption of the rule.**

- **H.R. 2446 - Afghanistan Freedom and Security Support Act of 2007 (Rep. Lantos – Foreign Affairs):** Pursuant to the rule, debate on the bill will be managed by Foreign Affairs Committee Chair Rep. Tom Lantos, or his designee, and will proceed in the following order:
 - One hour of debate on the bill.
 - Debate and votes on amendments to the bill.
 - Possible debate and vote on a Republican motion to recommit the bill.
 - Vote on passage of the bill. **Democrats are urged to vote yes on final passage.**

Bill Summary and Key Issues

Anticipated Amendments to H.R. 2446

1. Lantos (CA): Manager's Amendment. The amendment makes a number of technical, clarifying, and clerical changes to several provisions of H.R. 2446 as reported by the Committee on Foreign Affairs. (10 minutes)

2. Ackerman (NY): The amendment adds language to section 302 of the bill to ensure that the Presidential report required by that section includes an assessment of the quality of governance in each province of Afghanistan focusing in particular on the implementation of the rule of law, the impact of any human rights abuses by Afghan government forces on overall counterinsurgency efforts, and the ability of the courts and judicial system to provide an effective justice system. (10 minutes)

3. Costa (CA): The amendment seeks to enhance the Offices of the Inspector General at the Department of State and the U.S. Agency for International Development by requiring that permanent in-country staff be deployed to audit, investigate and oversee the programs authorized in Title I of the Afghanistan Freedom and Support Act of 2002, and bolsters the authorization of funds for this purpose. (10 minutes)

4. Franks (AZ): The amendment adds a congressional finding stating that the U.S. Armed Forces in Afghanistan recently intercepted a shipment of Iranian-made weapons intended for the Taliban in Afghanistan, and establishes a reporting requirement on Iranian-made weapons being sold to or used by the Taliban in Afghanistan. (10 minutes)

5. Jackson-Lee (TX): The amendment states that technical assistance should be provided to train national, provincial, and local governmental personnel for capacity-building purposes as it relates to education, health care, human rights (particularly women's rights), and political participation. This amendment also seeks to ensure girls complete secondary education so they are prepared and have the ability to pursue post-secondary education. (10 minutes)

6. Jackson-Lee (TX): The amendment seeks to bolster women's political participation by protecting women legislators when they return to the provinces they represent. It states that it is the sense of Congress that assistance provided to foreign countries and international organizations under this provision should be used, in part, to protect these female legislators. (10 minutes)

7. Kirk (IL): The amendment allows the Secretary of State, at her discretion, to make payments from the Rewards for Justice Program to officers or employees of the Afghan or Pakistani government who provide information leading to the capture of exceptional and high-profile terrorists committing acts in Afghanistan. (10 minutes)

8. Kucinich (OH): The amendment diverts \$500,000 in authorization authority for the United States contribution to the Post-Operations Humanitarian Relief Fund of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF). (10 minutes)

9. Terry (NE): The amendment states that the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) should give priority in awarding grants to non-governmental organizations to aid in the revitalization of Afghanistan to organizations based in the United States that have an established and cost-effective record of developing and administering such programs within Afghanistan, including teaching the people of Afghanistan how to create and sustain quality economic and educational systems. (10 minutes)

10. Van Hollen (MD): The amendment promotes the empowerment of citizens at the local level in the reconstruction and economic development decision-making process and creates an environment conducive to Afghan small business development. (10 minutes)

11. Souder (IN): The amendment specifies that logistical support activities for counter narcotics missions in Afghanistan include force protection and in extremis support. (10 minutes)

H.R. 2446 - Afghanistan Freedom and Security Support Act of 2007

- **Bipartisan Bill.** HR 2446 is co-sponsored by Chairman Lantos and ranking member Ros-Lehtinen. HR 2446 reaffirms the United States' long-term commitment to support Afghanistan in its transition from 30 years of civil war to a stable, prosperous democratic state. The bill reauthorizes programs created by the Afghanistan Freedom Support Act of 2002 (AFSA) through 2010, creates a new focus on counter-narcotics, and provides for enhanced oversight of United States strategy and performance.
- **Economic and Development Assistance.** HR 2446 authorizes \$1.7 billion in each of fiscal years 2008 through 2010 for economic and development assistance and provides additional support for programs such as assistance to women and girls, energy development and counter-narcotics.
- **Coordination and Oversight of Assistance.** HR 2446 directs the president to report to Congress each October on any involvement of senior Afghan officials in illegal narcotics trade, terrorism or criminal activities, and, beginning in 2009, bars U.S. aid to Afghan provincial or local governments if the president certifies that such officials are engaged in such activities. The legislation also requires the President to appoint a high-level interagency coordinator of assistance.
- **Military and Other Assistance.** HR 2446 contains provisions that are designed to update AFSA, to strengthen and broaden the reporting requirements so that progress can be measured against established goals and objectives, to require an enhanced strategy for Afghanistan, and to declare policies to foster greater regional cooperation. HR 2446 reauthorizes programs to provide the President with authority to carry out military assistance programs, requires that the President continue to support Afghan and international counter-narcotics operations, and enhance those operations, and provides for additional support to International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and provides for enhanced oversight of United States strategy and performance.
- **Other Provisions.** HR 2446 provides initiatives to improve Pakistan-Afghanistan cooperation and re-authorizes Radio Free Afghanistan. HR 2446 also calls for a pilot program to test the effectiveness of substituting legitimate alternative crops for poppy production in that country.

Quote of the Day

Nothing astonishes men so much as common sense and plain dealing.
-Ralph Waldo Emerson